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**Music**

**by skot armstrong**

*Pre-TV: Genesis P-Orridge sows the seeds of "hyperdelia" at a performance in Amsterdam, circa 1975.*

# Shadow Boxing With Genesis P-Orridge

## *The World's First Psychic Interview*

*One must ultimately forget humanity as an audience, because they are transient in eternal ways. But we must assume that someday, from somewhere, will come an alien brain. And this alien brain will be able to replay every thought and event without regard to time as we might look at a single three-dimensional object. So here was Earth and men and Coum and Science Holiday. And this alien brain seeing the whole must be our final audience.*

—Excerpt from letter, Genesis P-Orridge to Skot Armstrong, 1975

When Genesis calls me a "weird bastard," it is done so without malice. The same applies to whatever response I make in a similar vein. Old friends make the best sparring partners. As their mutual object is to learn from the proceedings, neither is out for a deadly knockout punch.

Gen was in town recently with the latest permutation of Psychic TV. At last count, the band numbers 22 members on a full-time basis. As these are not studio musicians hired for their competence at reading and reproducing written scores, there is bound to be variance at every turn. And it's when preconceptions are rendered futile that the fun really starts.

After a couple of fun shows that a lot of old fans didn't get, Gen and I snuck off to a local 24-hour macrobiotic eatery. During the discussion that ensued, we mutually concluded that his most unappreciated quality is his sense of humor. Many Gen-a-bees tend to focus upon the serious nature of the subjects he has caused them to consider and not upon the levity with which he has brought them into focus.

Thus, that evening was hatched a dire plot to present the gentle reader with the world's first "psychic interview," which I would slightly re-write in order to make his now-blank responses read logically. I had then planned to preface the whole thing with lengthy instructions on how to balance three Burroughs books on your head appropriately and improvise an orgone box that would maximize the effects . . . For fans too young to know that Brian Jones was a Rolling Stone, I say, "Don't try this at home."

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**WEEKLY:** *You certainly managed to surprise just about everybody at the Roxy show. Does this reflect a new direction for Psychic TV?*
**GENESIS P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *There's a fine line between opinions and slag sometimes.*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *In other words, there's no such thing as bad publicity?*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *In a way, it's a contradiction that you'd even publicize your involvement in something that is secret by its very nature.*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *There's also a contingent that considers him a hack. Have you ever read* The Magic of Aleister Crowley?
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *The author systematically examines his actual practices and offers a critique of Crowley the magician.*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *Do you think that all forms of criticism are invalid, then?*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *You're joking, aren't you?*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *Just what kind of limits would you set?*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *Of course the essence remains the same, but I detected a much lighter touch, especially in the first show.*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *. . . sort of like that joke about the guy who keeps hitting himself over the head because it feels so good when he stops.*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *A lot of people remarked on the difference between the shows. The first one seemed so polished and rehearsed. The second one looked more like an old TG show. You really have crowd control down to a science.*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *. . . like the Spahn ranch and Disneyland?*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *But is there anything left that hasn't been done to death?*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *I remember reading about that in* Research *magazine.*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *That's a real about-face. A lot of people still contend that you only get along with those types and actually discourage temple members from thinking for themselves.*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *But wouldn't that ultimately make you just as narrow-minded?*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *Speaking of mischief, don't you think that you overreacted during the video shoot when those guys brought in the whipped cream?*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *But you were actually kicking that one fellow. That would have made a great shot for "Good Vibrations."*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *Ironically, you had told that same kid the evening before not to place so much emphasis on clothes.*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *Lighten up! Every mini-mall in town has a dry cleaner. I remember the relish you took at the LAICA show in '76 squirting milk at the audience out of your bum.*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *What else have you outgrown in the last 10 years?*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *That's a formidable list. You must have been a late bloomer.*
**P-ORRIDGE:**

**WEEKLY:** *. . . and flower power to you too!* ■



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